

**Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Minutes – July 26, 2019**

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Present: Members: George Arthur, Ginny Gingras, Joe King, Ann Letendre
Guest: Don Bellingham, Vernon Greenway Volunteers; P&R Staff, Marty Sittler

(HRLP meeting called to order at 9:35 am by Chairman Ann Letendre)

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting of May 24, 2019 were approved, motion by Joe, second by George.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

Refer to Arthur report and Vernon Greenway Volunteers report (attached) for details.

Don noted that the VGV took the hand surveys for the trail census. 102 survey forms were completed by trail users.

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas

- a. Dart Hill South to Lyman Bridge – OK; Marty noted wildflower mix planted and looking good.
- b. Dart Hill North to WPC plant – trail on Sherman Arms property – retaining wall needs attention; George and Don will check on it.
- c. Walgreen Corner OK
- d. Saxony Mill Park OK.
- e. Paper Mill Corner Park – needs to be checked, George will do.
- f. West Main St – needs to be checked; George will do.
- g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) - OK
- h. Rails to Trails – Rockville Spur – OK
- i. Other – parking areas, Paul's Pizza: access trail OK

C. Current Projects – Status

Report from Friends HRLP on Rec. Trails Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk

1. Suspended Bridge – Remaining tasks:

- a. Signs: Ann received quote from Sign Connection for \$1162 for metal historical sign. Recognition sign also has to be drafted and installed. Ann will do
- b. Future Management – VGV will take on the site; maps are updated.

2. Pleasantview Boardwalks – Status

Ann reported that the additional 190 feet of boardwalk will be constructed in late October, early November by ORC, LLC. Contract amendment is being processed by DEEP for additional \$14,000 and extension of time to July 1, 2020.

Remaining work: The Pannier interpretive sign needs to be installed. A recognition sign needs to be ordered and installed also. Ann will get quote from Sign Connection. A kiosk had been planned for the site; Ann will look at funds to see if still feasible, or if Jeff Carlson would build another on a volunteer basis.

3. Property Easements - Pleasantview to Manchester line: No further action on easements.

4. Trail – Wendy's to Manchester Line: George has been clearing a trail so it can be walked and assessed by the committee for trail amenities needed; 3 or 4 separate walk trips will be needed. George will organize by email, for first and second weeks in August.

5. Costs – Total expended is \$161,163. Remaining funds: \$13,837.

D. Report from Friends HRLP on CT Trail Census: Don prepared a press release, will send to Ann for newspapers.

E. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications: No new applications, other than add-on to existing contract, above.

- F. River Protection: Actions, Public Education:** Ann updated Committee on some of the Sustainable CT projects being done by the Town.

3. New Business

1. 19 Grove St – no further information
2. Marianist Fathers Property – Ann reported that Rashid Hamid has purchased this property along the Hock. River off Rt 83, abutting Trail Run. He is exploring trail possibilities if he develops the site. He contacted Ann for information about HRLP trail plans in the area. He would like to add trail amenities and asked for input on possible trail locations along the river. Ann met with Rashid and others at his office and provided mapping of existing trails, and the HRLP Master Plan, as well as the Friends HRLP and HRLP concerns about adhering to wetlands boundaries and on-site drainage rather than directly into the river. George noted that a section of that planned trail area would need boardwalk, and perhaps Rashid might pay for it.

4. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am. Motion by George, second by Ginny.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

George Arthur Report May 24, 2019 to July 26, 2019

1. Twenty nine work hours completed the HRLP path from Pleasantview Dr. to Manchester. Some owner permissions are still required. Some trail structures, blazing and mapping will be required for completion as an HRLP trail. The path is now completed and ready for inspection by the HRLP committee members.
I am ready to lead inspection tours on each of these remaining properties. Each inspection tour would require approximately 1.5 hours.
 - a. The path on the Town property at Wendy's heads south from the Starbuck driveway on a down-slope to the west side of the detention pond. It crosses the existing silt fence and arrives at a junction with the Wendy upper path. North on the upper path leads to the north end of the river path. South leads to the river path on the Circle Associates property. The river path is unusable during the river floods but the upper path is still usable. Some trail structures will be required.
 - b. The scenic path on the Circle Associates property heads south along the river from the Town property to the Tri City property. Constructing a bridge and steps at the south end would allow passage during floods to Tri City. Owner permissions are required.
 - c. The path heads south across the Tri-City paved property for a short distance and then heads west into the forested Giulietti property. The path then continues south and enters forested Tri-City properties, then continues to the parking lot at Free Spirit. Tri City permission is required.
 - d. The path crosses Kelly Rd, enters DOT property, climbs over an existing fence using a constructed wood stile and heads south along the east shore of the river. It is permitted to be positioned on top of an existing Town sewer easement. The path will have to cross an overflow channel that drains a detention pond into the river near I-84. Two constructed stiles allow fence crossings at the channel. An existing rock dam at the pond can provide a crude crossing of the channel if DOT approves. The path is unusable during river floods. Some trail structures will be required. The stiles should be replaced with pass-thru gates that could be used by hikers but would prevent passage by deer.
 - e. There is a junction of the Tankerhoosen River with the Hockanum River on the Manchester side of I-84. The sewer line crosses under the Tankerhoosen River. Construction of a bridge for the path could be avoided if property owner permission could be obtained to utilize an existing bridge east of the Hockanum.
2. The Franklin St HRLP trail segment was cleared and connected to the Windermere development in Ellington with 10 hrs labor. This was done at the request of Ann Harford because their crew does not have permission to use powered weed whacker. Some blaze colors had been changed to yellow by someone instead of the traditional HRLP orange.
3. An additional 32 hrs of work was done on the following Vernon trails.
 - a. The loop trail at Camp Newhoca was cleared.
 - b. The Valley Falls stream drain at the pavilion was cleared.
 - c. The yellow and red trails at Valley Falls were cleared.
 - d. The dirt was cleaned off of the yellow trail steps at Valley Falls.
 - e. The trail from the parking lot to the red barn at Valley Falls was cleared.

- f. The trail, dam and beach were cleared at Walker Reservoir.

**Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report
May 22 to July 26, 2019**

Census Data 2019

Census monitor at Church Street checked for proper operation weekly.

The second of 5 two hour sessions of manual counts to develop an adjustment factor for the infrared counter at Church Street was accomplished on July 13, 2019 by John Horan and me.

Census Surveys 2019

The first two Census Surveys to get data and feedback fro trail users to use in planning i.e., how often do you use the trail, what do you like about the trail, what is your zip code, etc. We submitted a total of 102 surveys on 7/23/19.

Gardens Spring Cleaning

On June 1 the final Spring Cleaning took place on Center Road and West Street.

Trail Maintenance Team

To-date we have accomplished four Trail Maintenance Team outings: June 4, June 26, July 10 and July 16. We have completed the stone dust work from Church Street to Manchester and are currently working on the Rockville Extension.

Weed Whacking Team

To-date we have accomplished six Weed Whacking Team outings: June 6, June 15, June, 22, June 29, July 6, and July 13. We have completed Dart Hill North and Dart Hill South. We also did from Morrison to Rau on the Rockville Extension. The only remaining trail is VCMS.

Vernon Rotary

The Vernon Rotary Club asked for a trail project. We suggested painting and repairing the long fence between Morrison and Rau Streets that is need of repair and covered with graffiti. VGVs removed the existing area vegetation. Marty and I are putting together a plan of participation by: VGVs, Parks and Rec and the Rotary Club.